

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR

The President

Following is a report of a telephone conversation I had this morning with Norman Cousins, Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW:

Mr. Cousins and Phil Moseley headed an American team that met with 12 Russians -- including Yuri Zhukov -- at Andover, Maine last week at a conference on communications under the sponsorship of the Ford Foundation. Mr. Cousins said that while the meeting came at a very unpropitious time it did provide a good opportunity to discuss the current situation with these Russians.

Cousins said the thing that made the most profound impression on the Russians was that every American in the group understood the Cuban issue as private citizens and with no obvious government direction.

Cousins said that on Friday morning Zhukov asked Cousins if Khrushchev should make an offer to withdraw the bases, wouldn't President Kennedy crow about this victory and be tempted to take more aggressive action against the Soviet Union. Cousins said he could only speak for himself and that he felt confident the President would not crow about such a victory or would he do anything to humiliate the Soviet Union; that the President was always a firm but reasonable man.

Cousins also said that he was told by the Russians (he did not specify which one) that when Gromyko came back to New York after meeting you he reported to Mr. Khrushchev only about the Berlin aspects of the conversation but did not mention Cuba. He

said that he understood after the President's speech on Monday October 22nd, Khrushchev asked Gromyko who he could have overlooked the Cuban part of the conversation. Cousins pointed out to Zhukov that you were most moderate in your actions and that the country would have supported a more drastic action.

Cousins said that Zhukov was in constant touch with Moscow during the week; that he seems to be interested in some idea of an agenda should you and Khrushchev meet. Cousins feels sure Zhukov will bring this up with me on Wednesday and that also Zhukov wants to talk to John McCloy. He said that McCloy had made a strong impression on the Russians who said to Cousins they were "willing to put anything McCloy says in the bank."

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Cousins also told me that he had been asked by the Pope during the week to be an intermediary with the White House. Following Cousins' conversation with Ted Sorensen, he had asked the Pope to delete any reference to any immediate abandonment by the United States of its blockade; to confine himself to a general plea for peace.



Pierre Salinger

cc: McGeorge Bundy